

LOUISIANA WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES COMMISSION

MINUTES

October 2, 2014

Billy Broussard
CHAIRMAN

Pat Manuel
VICE CHAIRMAN

BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA

The following constitute minutes of the Commission Meeting
and are not a verbatim transcript of the proceedings.

Tapes of the meetings are kept at the
Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries
2000 Quail Drive
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70808.
For more information, call (225) 765-2806

AGENDA
LOUISIANA WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES COMMISSION
BATON ROUGE, LA
October 2, 2014 9:30 AM

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MINUTES OF THE MEETING
OF
LOUISIANA WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES COMMISSION

Thursday, October 2, 2014

Vice Chairman Pat Manuel presiding

Present:

Pat Manuel
Ronny Graham
Ann Taylor
Bart Yakupzack
Ed Swindell

NOT Present:

Billy Broussard
Dan Davis

Secretary Barham was also present

Wendy Brogdon Called Roll

Vice Chairman Manuel called for a motion for approval of the **September 4, 2014 Commission Minutes**. A motion for approval was made by Commissioner Swindell and seconded by Commissioner Taylor. Vice Chairman Manuel called for a vote and the motion passed with no opposition.



Vice Chairman Manuel notified the Commission, the August 2014 Commission Meeting minutes which were tabled at the September 4, 2014 meeting needed to be approved and in order to add this action item to the agenda a motion had to be made.

A motion was made by Commissioner Graham and seconded by Commissioner Taylor. Each Commissioner agreed to allow the item to be added to the Agenda.

Vice Chairman Manuel then asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the August Commission meeting. Commissioner Taylor made the motion and the motion was seconded by Commissioner Yakupzack. Vice Chairman Manuel call for a vote and the motion passed with no opposition.



Vice Chairman Manuel notified the Commissioners and public there was a request to amend the agenda To Consider a Declaration of Emergency Modifying the 2014-15 Commercial Fishing Season for Lake Bruin, False River Lake and Lake Providence.

A motion to amend the agenda to add the Declaration of Emergency was made by Commissioner Graham and seconded by Commissioner Taylor.

Vice Chairman Manuel announced this item would be placed after item #4 on the Agenda.
Vice Chairman Manuel announced the next item, **To Hear Enforcement Reports for September**; to be presented by Lt Col. Martin

There were Twelve (12) boating accidents reported, Nine (9) injuries and Zero (0) Fatalities. There were 839 total cases for the month of September with 541 Written Warnings issued and 39 Public Assistance.

Three (3) News releases were discussed

(1) LDWF Agents Issue 55 Citations for Hunting Over Bait During Opening Weekend of Dove Season

Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Enforcement Division agents issued 101 dove hunting related citations during the opening weekend of dove season on Sept. 6 and 7 statewide.

Of the 101 total citations, 55 were for hunting doves over a baited area. Most of the other charges were for hunting with an unplugged gun, hunting without a basic hunting license, placing bait, hunting from a moving vehicle, and taking non-game birds.

A large portion of the hunting doves over a baited area took place in Franklin Parish where agents found 28 people hunting over bait. Other places that agents found numerous people hunting over bait included Avoyelles Parish with five people, Tensas Parish with four people, Claiborne with four people, Washington Parish with four people, Beauregard Parish with two people, Rapides Parish with two people and St. John Parish with two people.

Agents also seized over 300 doves associated with the citations.

Dove season began on Sept. 6 with a daily bag limit of 15 doves and possession limit of 45 doves. However, there is no bag limit on Eurasian collared-doves or ringed turtle-doves provided that a fully feathered wing and head remain attached to the carcass of the bird. Fully dressed Eurasian-collared doves and ringed-turtle doves (those without a fully feathered wing and head naturally attached to the carcass) shall be included in the aggregate bag.

Hunting over a baited field for doves, placing bait, and taking non-game birds each brings a state penalty of \$400 to \$950 in fines and up to 120 days in jail. Hunting with unplugged guns and from a moving vehicle each brings a \$250 to \$500 fine and up to 90 days in jail. Hunting without a basic hunting license brings up to a \$50 fine and 15 days in jail.

(2) Many Resident Pleads Guilty To Possessing A Firearm, Ammunition After Being Convicted Of Felonies

A Many man pleaded guilty on Sept. 26 to possessing a shotgun and ammunition after being convicted of multiple felonies, U.S. Attorney Stephanie A. Finley announced.

Jerry Kenneth Thompson Jr., 44, pleaded guilty before U.S. District Judge Elizabeth E. Foote to one count of possessing a firearm and ammunition after a felony conviction.

According to evidence presented at the guilty plea, Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (LDWF) agents discovered Thompson on Dec. 31, 2013 in possession of a 12-gauge shotgun and ammunition while hunting on private property without permission and using a stolen deer stand. Thompson admitted to LDWF agents that he had prior felony convictions and knew he could not possess a firearm.

Further investigation confirmed that Thompson had seven felony convictions in California. The felony convictions include: two convictions for grand theft, possession of marijuana with intent to sell, second degree burglary of a vehicle, possession with intent to sell a controlled substance with a gang affiliation enhancement, transportation of a controlled substance, and possession for sale of cocaine base. Thompson also had a prior felony conviction in Sabine Parish for simple burglary.

Thompson faces up to 10 years in prison, three years of supervised release, a \$250,000 fine, and forfeiture of the firearm and ammunition. A sentencing date of Jan. 30, 2015 was set.

(3) Two Men Cited For Oyster Violations in Plaquemines Parish

Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Enforcement Division agents cited two men for alleged oyster violations in Plaquemines Parish on Sept. 26.

Agents cited Matthew J. Lepetich, 37, of Belle Chasse, and Jose M. Bocanegra, 45, of St. Bernard, for violations of the states oyster sanitation code that are intended for raw consumption. Lepetich was also cited for violations of the vessel monitoring systems for oyster cargo vessels, failing to tag oysters properly and failing to maintain the required records for oyster cargo vessels.

The charges stem from agents stopping Lepetich in Bay Adams in Plaquemines Parish without the required Department of Health and Hospitals log sheet filled out. The log sheet is used to indicate what the intended use was for the oysters.

After further investigation, agents learned that Lepetich was receiving oysters from one of his other vessels that were not refrigerated properly and which were intended for raw consumption. The vessel those oysters were received from had no type of refrigeration on board.

The oysters harvested by Lepetich himself were also not properly tagged by lot ID's in accordance with Department of Health and Hospitals regulations for raw consumption oysters.

Lastly, Lepetich did not have the required vessel monitoring system on his vessel as required by oyster cargo vessels.

Agents seized 351 sacks of oysters and returned them to the water.

Violating the states oyster sanitation code for non-refrigerated oysters for raw consumption, failing to maintain required records for oyster vessels and the vessel monitoring system for oyster cargo vessels each brings a \$400 to \$950 fine and up to 120 days in jail. Failing to tag oysters carries a \$250 to \$500 fine and up to 90 days in jail.

Agents participating in the case are Sgt. Adam Young, Senior Agent Joel Crompt, Sgt. Tim Fox, Senior Agent Brett Nabors, Senior Agent Robert Cosse Jr., and Agent Jeff Farmer.

There were no comments or questions heard

For the agenda item, **Commission Special Announcements/Personal Privilege**
None were heard



Vice Chairman Manuel announced the next item, **To Consider a Declaration of Emergency Modifying the 2014-15 Commercial Fishing Season for Lake Bruin, False River Lake and Lake Providence**, to Be presented by Cole Garret

Mr. Garrett stated that a Notice of Intent for this subject matter was brought before and adopted by the Commission in March 2014. The Final Rule was not published in the State Register to make the dates effective, therefore Secretary Barham exercised his right to execute the Declaration. The original Notice of Intent will go into effect October 20, 2014.

There were no questions or comments heard.

A motion for approval was made by Commissioner Swindell and seconded by Commissioner Graham. Vice Chairman Manuel called for a vote and the motion passed with no opposition

(The full text of the Declaration is made a part of the record)

DECLARATION OF EMERGENCY
Department of Wildlife and Fisheries
Wildlife and Fisheries Commission

Modification of 2014-15 Commercial Fishing Season for Lake Bruin, False River Lake and Lake Providence

The commercial fishing seasons for Lake Bruin (Tensas Parish), False River Lake (Pointe Coupee Parish), and Lake Providence (East Carroll Parish) have previously been set to open at sunrise on November 1, 2014. Additionally, False River Lake is currently undergoing a drawdown and LAC 76:VII.175 provides that all freshwater impoundments shall be closed to use of commercial fish netting during water drawdown periods, unless otherwise specified by the department.

In accordance with the emergency provisions of R.S. 49:953, which allows the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries and the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission to use emergency procedures to set finfish seasons, and R.S. 56:22 and R.S. 56:326.3, which provide that the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission may set seasons for freshwater finfish, the secretary hereby declares:

The 2014-15 commercial fishing seasons in Lake Bruin (Tensas Parish), False River Lake (Pointe Coupee Parish), and Lake Providence (East Carroll Parish) will open at sunrise on October 1, 2014 and remain open until sunset on the last day of February, 2015. Further, the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries finds no biological or technical reason to prohibit the commercial netting of fish in False River Lake during the ongoing drawdown of that impoundment and hereby specifies that the prohibition in LAC 76:VII.175 shall not apply.

This Declaration of Emergency shall become effective at sunrise on October 1, 2014 and shall remain in effect for the maximum period allowed under the Administrative Procedure Act or until rescinded by the Secretary.

Robert Barham
Secretary

Vice Chairman Manuel announced the next item, **Shikar Safari State of Louisiana Wildlife Officer of the Year Presentation**, to be presented by Lt Col. Martin and Chris Kinsey

Shikar-Safari Club International presented their Officer of the Year award for Louisiana to LDWF Sr. Agent, Thomas Wolfe. The Shikar-Safari award recognizes an agent from each state for outstanding efforts in conservation law enforcement.

The Shikar-Safari Club International was founded in 1952 by an international group of hunters interested in exchanging ideas about the sport. Each year the club sponsors an award for the wildlife officer of the year in all 50 states, 10 Canadian provinces, and the territories of both nations. In 1966, the Shikar-Safari International Foundation was formed to support various wildlife conservation projects with funds raised by club members.

The Commissioners congratulated Mr. Wolfe on this accomplishment

Vice Chairman Broussard announced the next item, **To Consider a Notice of Intent to establish the Catch and Cook Program**, to be presented by Randy Myers, Program Manager – Office of Fisheries. Mr. Myers began by stating that Act 577 of the 2014 Regular Legislative Session authorized the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries to establish the Louisiana Catch and Cook Program and Permit (R.S. 56:317)

Permitted retail food establishments as defined by law (51:XXIII.101 (A)) will be allowed to prepare recreational fish legally caught and possessed by licensed recreational fisherman. Any saltwater or freshwater recreational fish as defined in RS 56:8 will be allowed to be prepared

Rules, regulations, penalties, terms, conditions and requirements for the program and permit are being proposed through the NOI process.

Retail food establishments must adhere to the State Sanitary Code and adhere to the following conditions that shall be enforced by Department of Health and Hospitals, Office of Public Health:

The retail establishment shall complete, date, and have the recreational fisherman who brings the fish in for preparation sign an assumption of risk form. The completed, dated, and signed form shall be maintained at the establishment for a period of no less than ninety days. The establishment shall provide the completed forms to the state health officer upon request.

The retail food establishment shall receive only fish that have been cleaned, filleted, placed in clean, food-grade, single-service packaging, and properly refrigerated.

The retail food establishment shall inspect the fish for freshness and proper receiving temperature.

The fish shall be properly labeled with the date, time, and name of the recreational fisherman.

The retail food establishment shall store, prepare, and otherwise handle the fish separately from products being prepared for and served to the general public.

The retail food establishment shall store, prepare, and otherwise handle the fish in compliance with provisions of the state Sanitary Code (LAC Title 51, Part XXIII).

The retail food establishment shall prepare and serve the fish to the recreational fisherman or any person in his party within four hours of receipt of the fish.

Containers, preparation tables, cutting boards, utensils, and other food preparation equipment used to prepare and serve the fish shall be properly cleaned and sanitized in accordance with provisions of the state Sanitary Code (LAC Title 51, Part XXIII) prior to use preparing foods to serve to the general public.

The fish shall be served directly to the recreational fisherman or any person in his party immediately upon the completion of cooking and shall not be served to the general public.

Permits will be issued by the Department free of charge.

The permit is valid for one calendar year, beginning Jan 1 and expiring Dec 31.

Permits may be suspended or revoked by the Department for any violation of the rules and regulations or on written recommendation of DHH

Commissioner Swindell asked if this has been approved by Department of Health and Hospitals

Mr. Myers stated that yes it has and that they have met on multiple occasions and helped with writing the NOI. Swindell followed up with another question, and asked if the fish had to be labeled with date and time caught. Mr. Myers stated that the fish had to be labeled with the time the restaurant received the fish. The restaurant would determine the freshness.

Commissioner Taylor asked which type of fish could be used and Mr. Myers stated those listed in Title 56, Section 8.

Commissioner Manuel asked what the authorized method for cooking is and Mr. Myers stated that any cooking method could be used.

Mr. Darryl Carpenter runs a Guide Service out of Grand Isle, asked if this applies to private lodging.

Mr. Myers stated the rules constituting an established food service are located in the State Register.

Commissioner Manuel stated those persons are not charged to consume. Mr. Myers said this appears to be covered in the rules of an established food service facility.

Cole Garrett then stated that the restaurant has a four hour time limit after receiving the fish.

There were no other comments or questions heard. A motion for approval was made by Commissioner Taylor and seconded by Commissioner Graham. Vice Chairman Manuel called for a vote and the motion passed with no opposition

(The full text of the Notice of Intent is made a part of the record)

NOTICE OF INTENT

Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Office of Fisheries

Establishment of the Louisiana Catch and Cook Program and Permit

The Department of Wildlife and Fisheries hereby gives notice of its intent to establish the Louisiana Catch and Cook Program. The program will allow permitted retail food establishments to prepare certain recreational fish caught by properly licensed fisherman. Rules and regulations, penalties, terms, conditions, requirements and related matters are being proposed.

The secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries is authorized to take any and all necessary steps on behalf of the Commission to promulgate and effectuate this Notice of Intent and the Final Rule, including but not limited to, the filing of the Fiscal and Economic Impact Statements, the filing of the Notice of Intent and final Rule and the preparation of reports and correspondence to other agencies of government.

Title 76

WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES

PART VII. Fish and Other Aquatic Life

Chapter 3. Freshwater Sports and Commercial Fishing

§379. Louisiana Catch and Cook Program and Permit

A. The Department of Wildlife and Fisheries is authorized to establish the Louisiana Catch and Cook Program and Permit pursuant to R.S. 56:317. Notwithstanding any provision of the State Sanitary Code or any other law or regulation to the contrary, it shall be lawful for a retail food establishment to receive and prepare any freshwater or saltwater recreational fish as defined in R.S. 56:8.

B. Any retail food establishment as defined in LAC 51:XXIII.101 (A), is authorized to prepare any fish legally taken and possessed by a licensed recreational fisherman for consumption by that recreational fisherman or any person in his party. The retail food establishment must possess a Louisiana Catch and Cook Program permit issued by the department. Possession of a permit does not exempt the permittee from any other law or regulation.

C. Permittees will be required to abide by the following conditions that shall be enforced by the Department of Health and Hospitals, Office of Public Health:

1. The retail establishment shall complete, date, and have the recreational fisherman who brings the fish in for preparation sign an assumption of risk form. The completed, dated, and signed form shall be maintained at the establishment for a period of no less than ninety days. The establishment shall provide the completed forms to the state health officer upon request.

2. The retail food establishment shall receive only fish that have been cleaned, filleted, placed in clean, food-grade, single-

service packaging, and properly refrigerated.

3.

The retail food establishment shall inspect the fish for freshness and proper receiving temperature.

4. The fish shall be properly labeled with the date, time, and name of the recreational fisherman.

5. The retail food establishment shall store, prepare, and otherwise handle the fish separately from products being prepared for and served to the general public.

6. The retail food establishment shall store, prepare, and otherwise handle the fish in compliance with provisions of the state Sanitary Code (LAC Title 51, Part XXIII).

7. The retail food establishment shall prepare and serve the fish to the recreational fisherman or any person in his party within four hours of receipt of the fish.

8. Containers, preparation tables, cutting boards, utensils, and other food preparation equipment used to prepare and serve the fish shall be properly cleaned and sanitized in accordance with provisions of the state Sanitary Code (LAC Title 51, Part XXIII) prior to use preparing foods to serve to the general public.

9. The fish shall be served directly to the recreational fisherman or any person in his party immediately upon the completion of cooking and shall not be served to the general public.

D. Permits may be obtained at no cost, from the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries or any authorized method. The permit is valid

for one calendar year, beginning on January 1 and expiring on December 31 of the same calendar year. The permit may be obtained at any time of the year until November 15 for the current license year. A permit obtained on or after November 15 of the current license year shall be valid for the remainder of the current license year and expires on December 31 of the immediately following license year. The Department of Wildlife and Fisheries shall provide the names and locations of each participating retail food establishment to the Department of Health and Hospitals, Office of Public Health upon request.

E. Permits may be suspended or revoked by the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries for any violation of the rules and regulations of this program or on the written recommendation of the Department of Health and Hospitals.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 56:317.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, Wildlife and Fisheries Commission, LR (October 2014).

Family Impact Statement

In accordance with Act 1183 of 1999 regular session of the Louisiana Legislature, the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, Wildlife and Fisheries Commission hereby issues its Family Impact Statement in connection with the preceding Notice of Intent. This Notice of Intent will have no impact on the six criteria set out at R.S. 49:972(B).

Poverty Impact Statement

The proposed rulemaking will have no impact on poverty as described in R.S.49:973.

Provider Impact Statement

This Rule has no known impact on providers as described in HCR 170 of the 2014 Regular Legislative Session.

Public Comments

Written comments may be addressed to Robert Bourgeois, Biologist DCL-B, Office of Fisheries, Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, Box 98000, Baton Rouge, LA 70898-9000 or via e-mail at rbourgeois@wlf.la.gov no later than 4:30 p.m., Wednesday, December 1, 2014.

Vice Chairman Manuel announced the next item, **to receive public comments on the amendments on the Port Eads Notice of Intent**, to be presented by Cole Garrett

Mr. Garrett began by giving background on the NOI. The NOI was heard at the June 2014 Commission meeting.

The proposed rule would allow anglers to possess up to three times the daily creel limit of saltwater fish in their vessels when transporting the fish to a location accessible by land from the remote Port Eads Marina in Plaquemines Parish.

The term “possession limit” refers to the number of fish of a particular species that a recreational angler may have in his or her possession at a particular time on or off the water. When onboard a vessel on the water, anglers may have in their possession a number of fish of a particular species equal to the species’ daily creel limit. Currently the possession limit for recreational fish species off the water in Louisiana is twice the daily creel limit for a particular species.

Anglers who take prolonged fishing trips from remote locations like the Port Eads Marina are concerned that the current possession limits presents them with a difficult choice. To remain compliant with the possession limits during a multiple-day fishing trip, they must either cease fishing for a specific species after harvesting a single day’s creel limit or take a boat trip from their remote camp to a distant land point to unload the equivalent of a single day’s creel limit.

The proposed rules change adjusts the general possession limit for anglers fishing in the vicinity of Port Eads near the mouth of the Mississippi River for more than one day at a time. Anglers who land a daily creel limit of fish at the Port Eads marina and receive certification from LDWF staff would be permitted to possess up to three times the daily creel limit of saltwater fish when transporting the fish from the Port Eads marina to landing sites that are accessible by land. The fish must be kept in separate marked bags for each day’s creel limit.

At the August 3, 2014 Commission Meeting, Mr. Garrett asked the Commission to consider the following amendment to the NOI:

Based on the comments received and meeting with the Port Eads facility, the Department has some substantive changes to include and recognize slip rentals as part of lodging, recognition that this facility will not be a year round destination in order to use the staff time efficiently, and the department is asking for a three day notice of when persons will be staying at the facility. The last change is to provide an Annual Report to the Commission.

Commissioner Swindell asked if people are docking and lodging on a vessel, does the limit apply to each person on the vessel. Mr. Garrett stated, the intent is for any person staying on the vessel.

Commissioner Graham asked if the catch is filleted on the water and put in bags, how many days catch can one person have. Mr. Garrett stated that a three (3) day possession of the daily creel. An LDWF biologist or agent will verify and tag.

Commissioner Graham then asked who was responsible for paying for this. Mr. Randy Pausina answered the question stating that existing staff in the area would be responsible. No new staff would be hired and the staff already working in the area would be utilized. Mr. Pausina also stated that advance notice has to be given to LDWF to have staff in place.

Commissioner Yakupzack posed – the effect is to not allow Port Eads to take advantage unless LDWF inspects the bag and the catch. Mr. Garrett said that is correct.

There were no other comments or questions heard.

Vice Chairman Manuel announced the next item, **to hear an update on the Spotted Sea Trout Assessment**, to be presented by Harry Blanchet and Joe West

Mr. Blanchet stated this assessment will be done on a regular basis using independent and dependent samples. This is an ongoing monitoring process and synopsis overtime with current data through 2013.

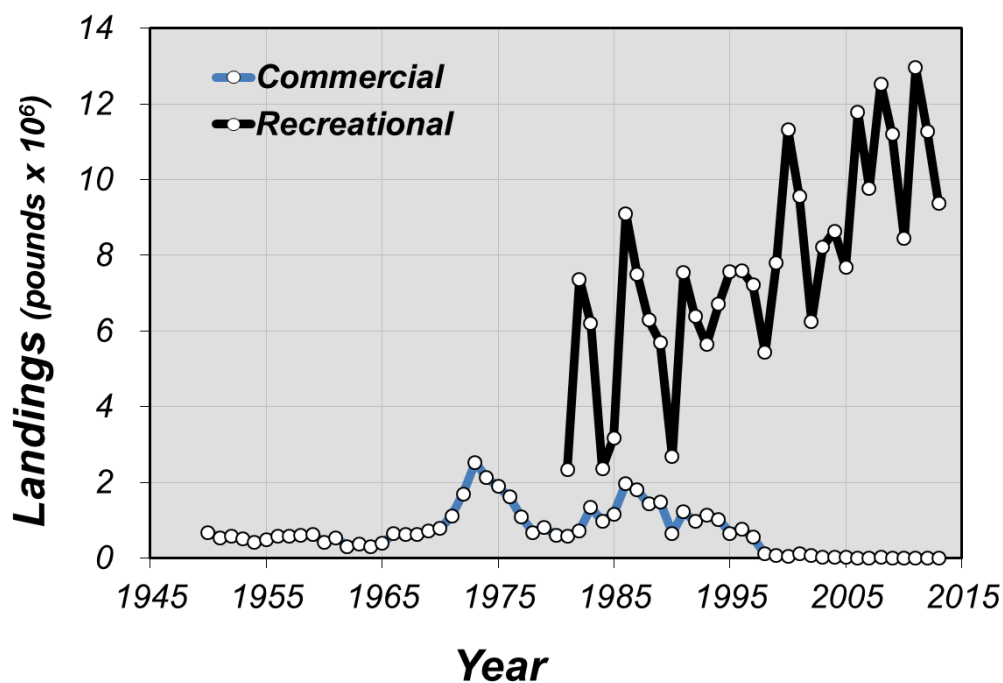
Louisiana Landings

Harvest rates, sizes, ages – Not much data prior to early 1980's

Not a lot of confidence in the old data. Lots of uncertainty

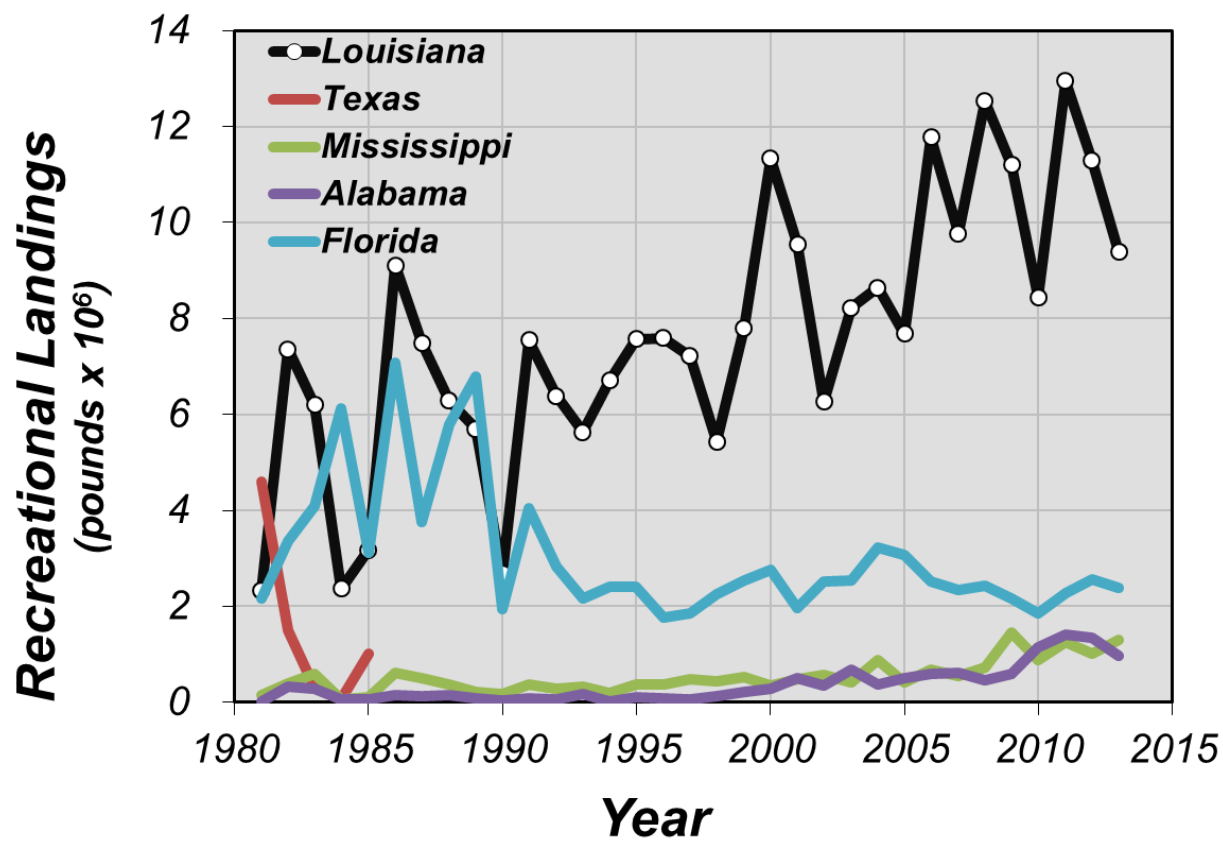
1996 – LDWF started using personnel to collect data

Data is gathered through Trip Tickets, Monthly Dealer Reports and Recreational Anglers

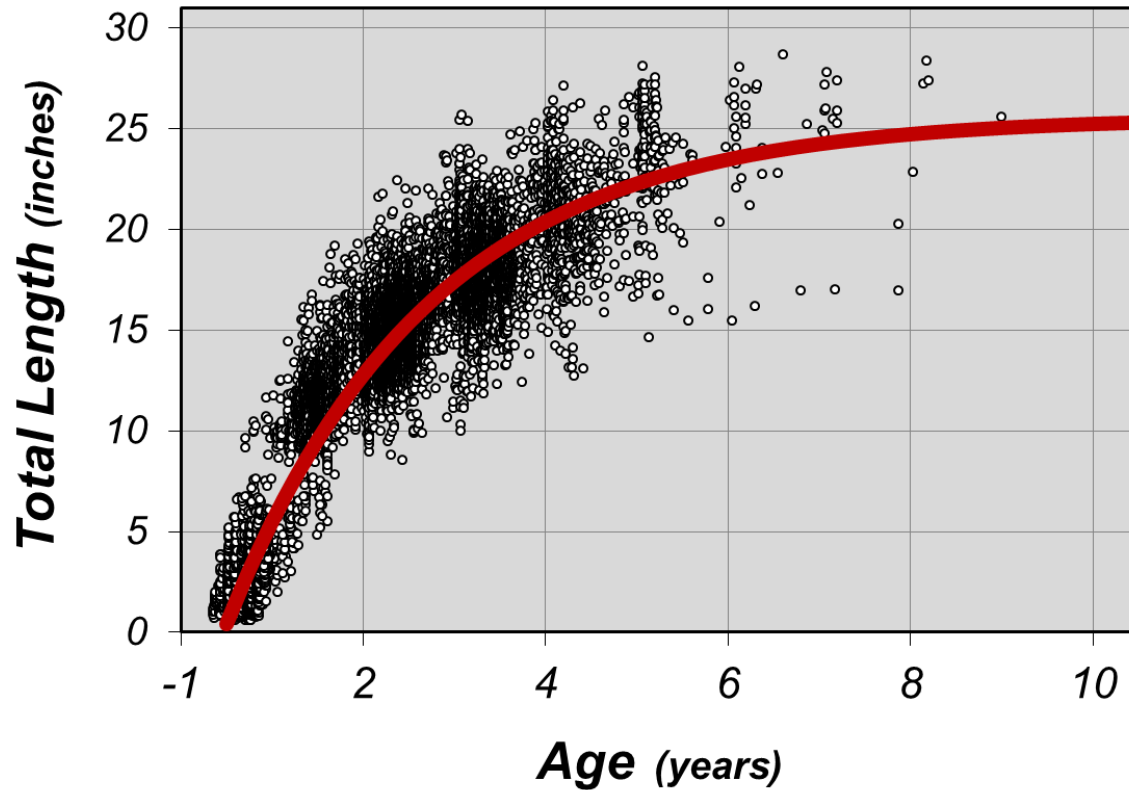


GOM Recreational Landings

Louisiana is in the center of SST Universe



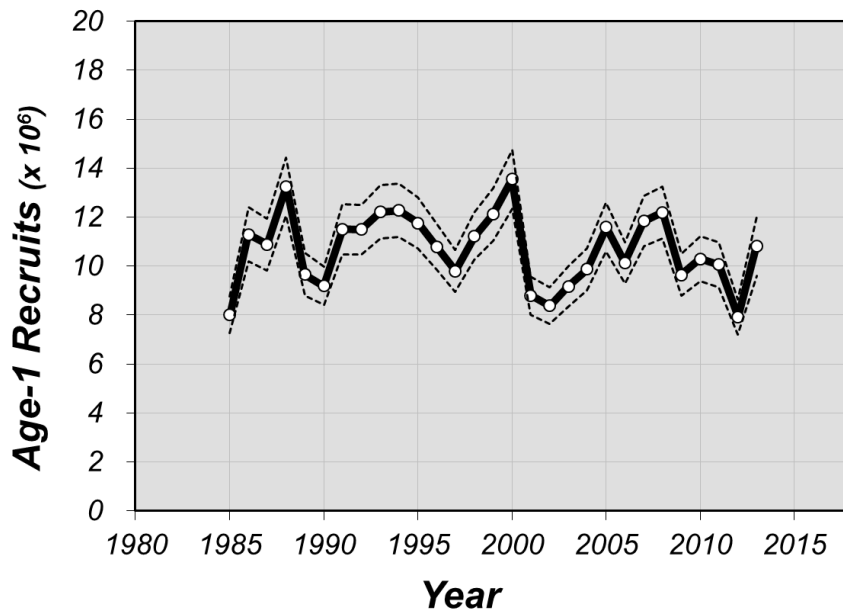
Assessment Results
Age Estimation (Old vs. New)



Method assessment applies ages to record harvest
In prior years, when fish were taken the growth equation was used to determine age (red line)
The current assessment – uses otolith to determine age by counting the rings
Only females are used
Males grow slower and differently
Varies 12 inches based on size, year and season

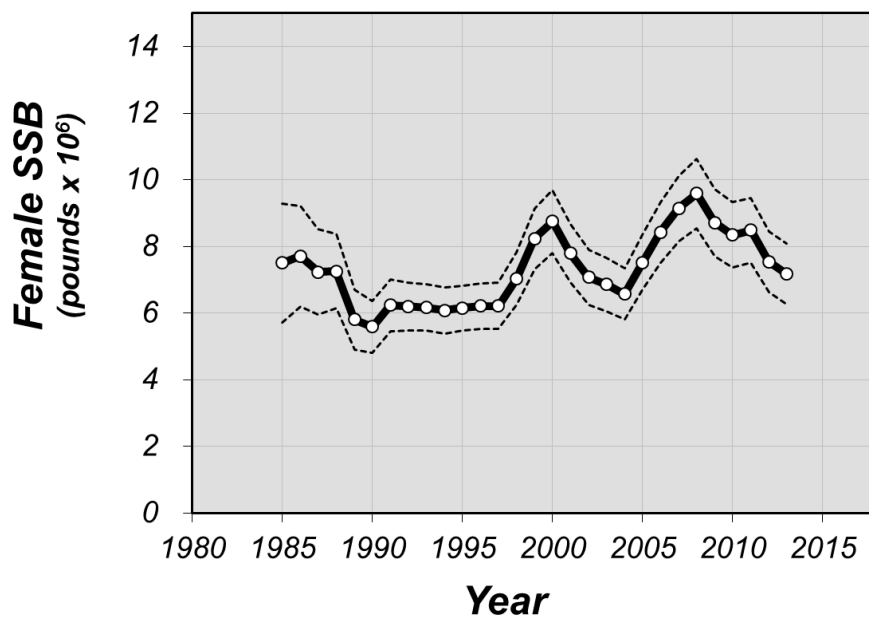
Recruitment

Recruitment is the number of young fish coming in the fishery.



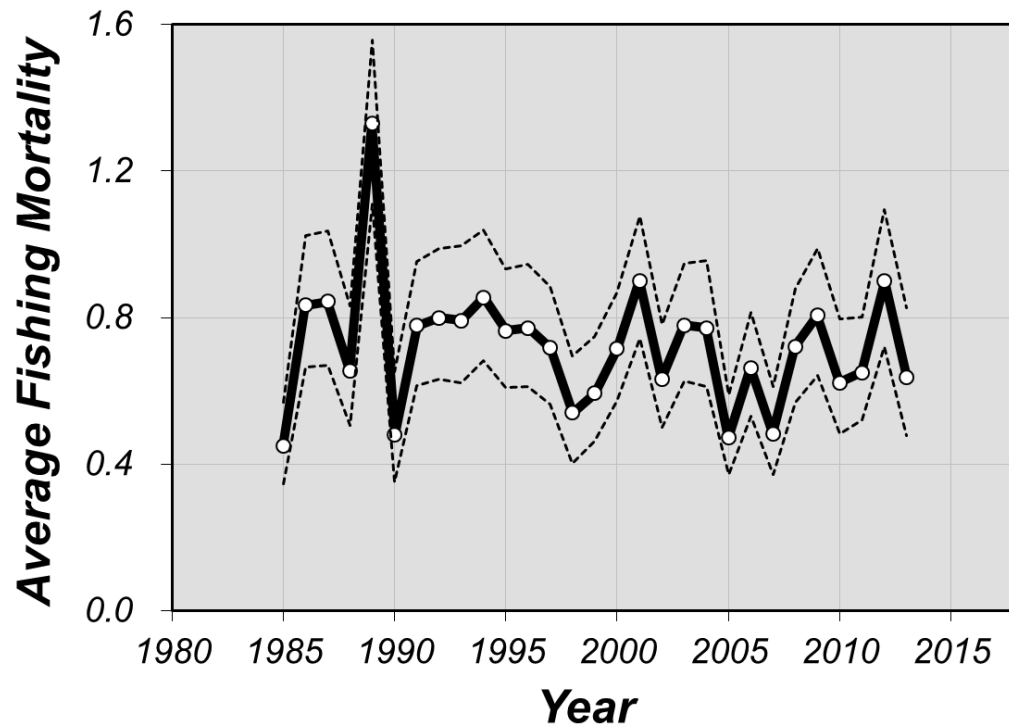
Spawning Stock Bio Mass

Weight of females of spawning size in the population



Fishing Mortality Rate

Rate at which people moving Spotted Sea Trout from the population



Commissioner Swindell asked why there was a spike during that one time near 1990
Mr. Blanchet stated that it could not be completely accounted for.
Natural causes, weather freezes, tropical weather

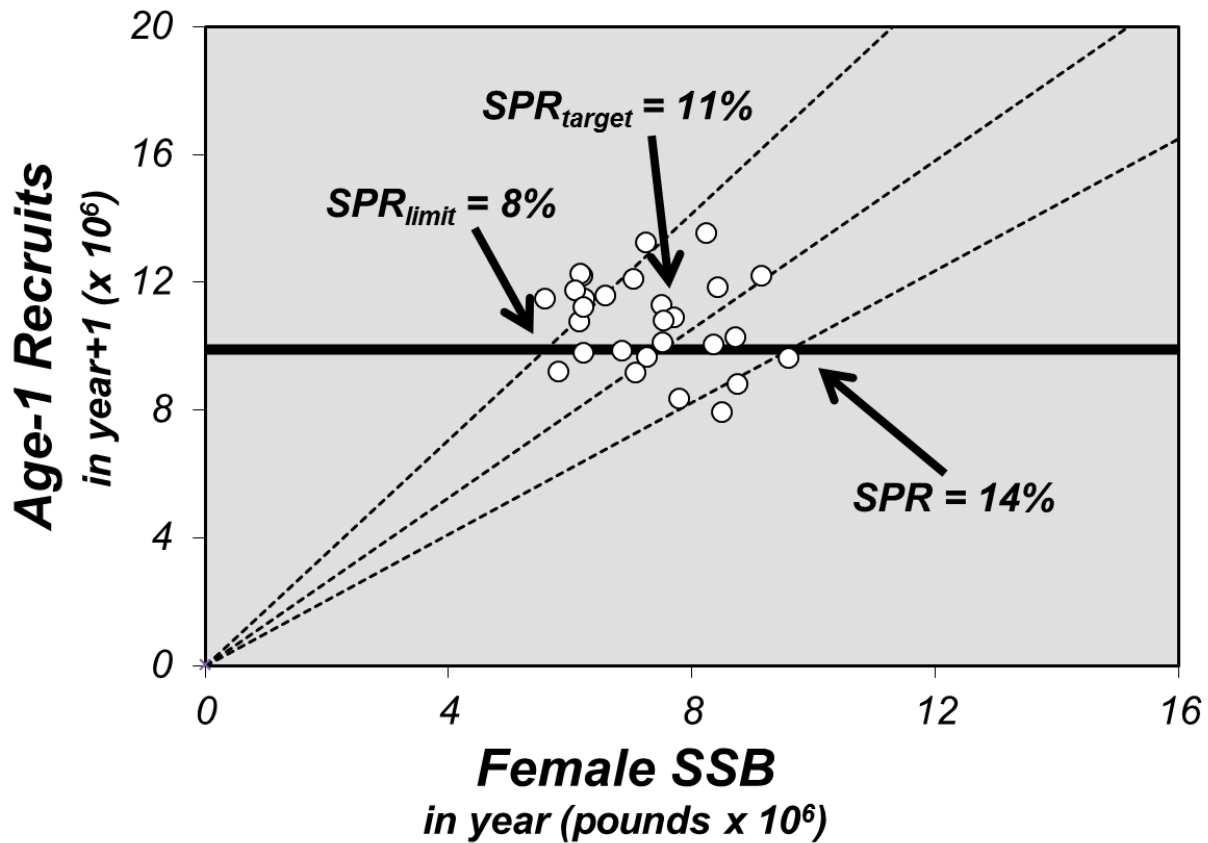
Management Bench Marks

Stock Recruitment

Number of Females in water – What is their ability to require new recruitments to the area

Ex: 0 Females = 0 Recruitments

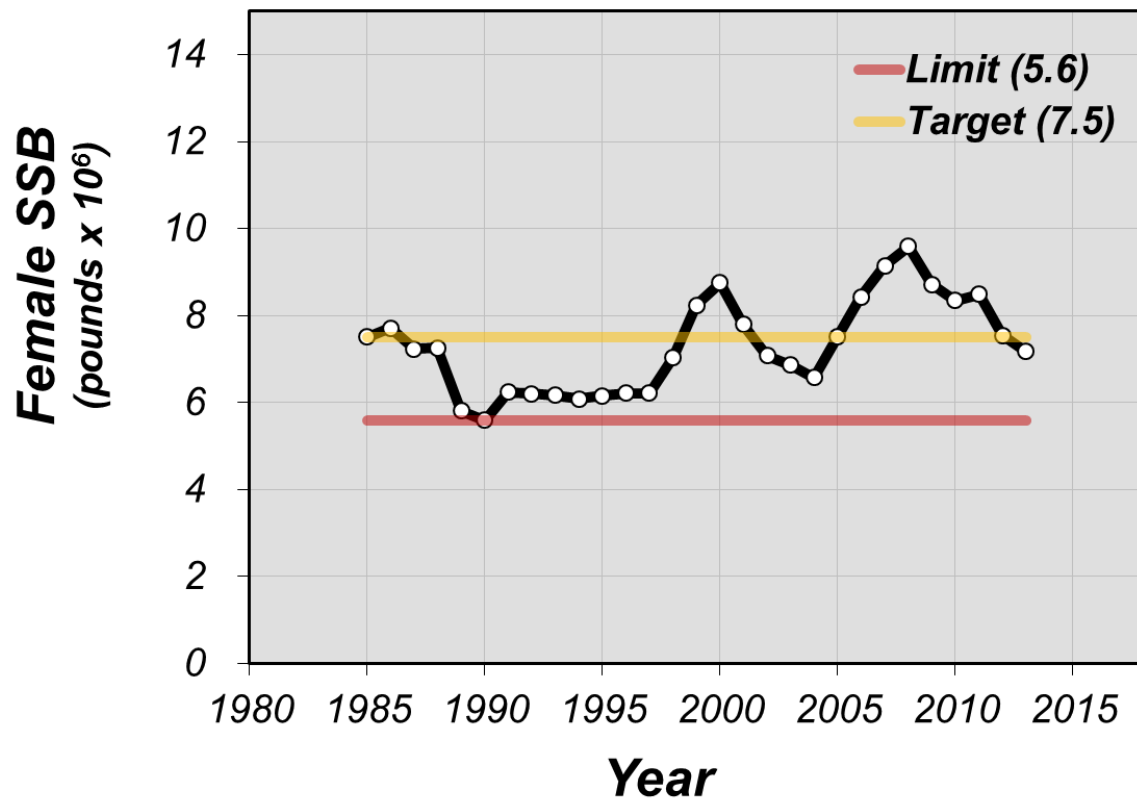
Recruitment has not declined consistently with recruitment across the range



Spawning Stock Biomass

Lowest – 1990

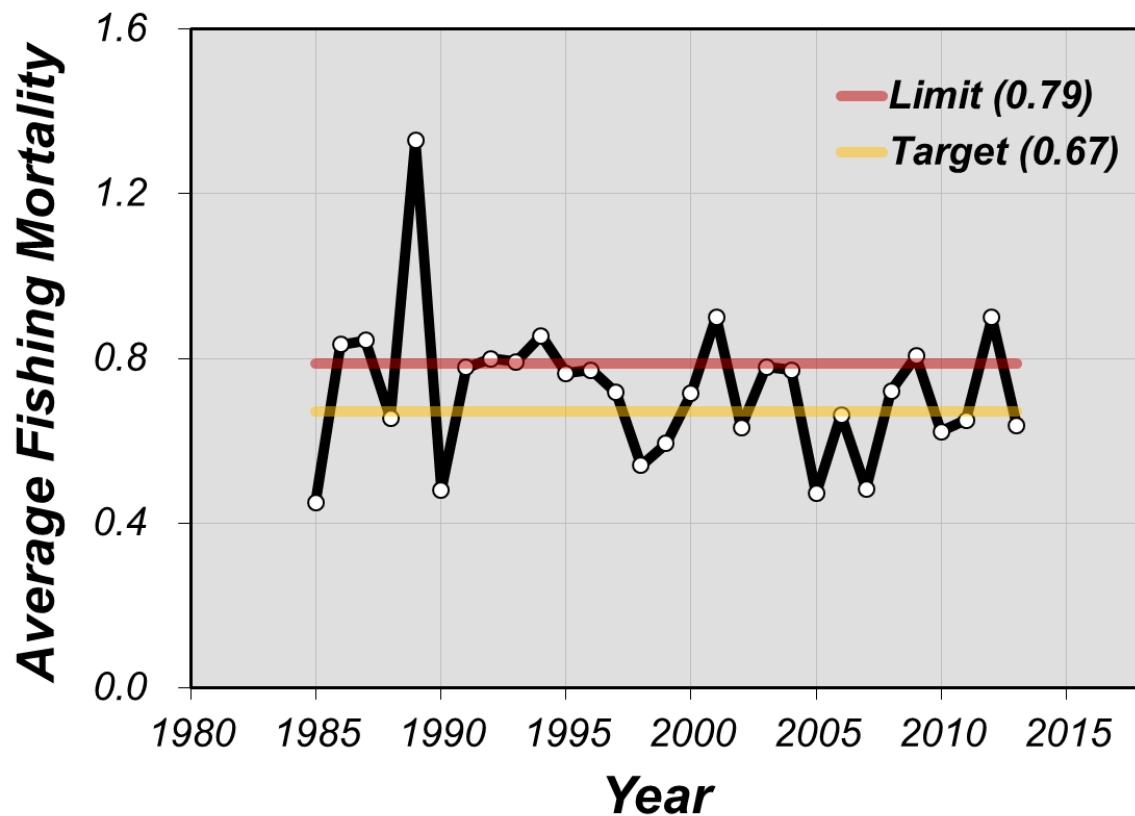
Currently – Very near our target which is median over time target



Fishing Mortality

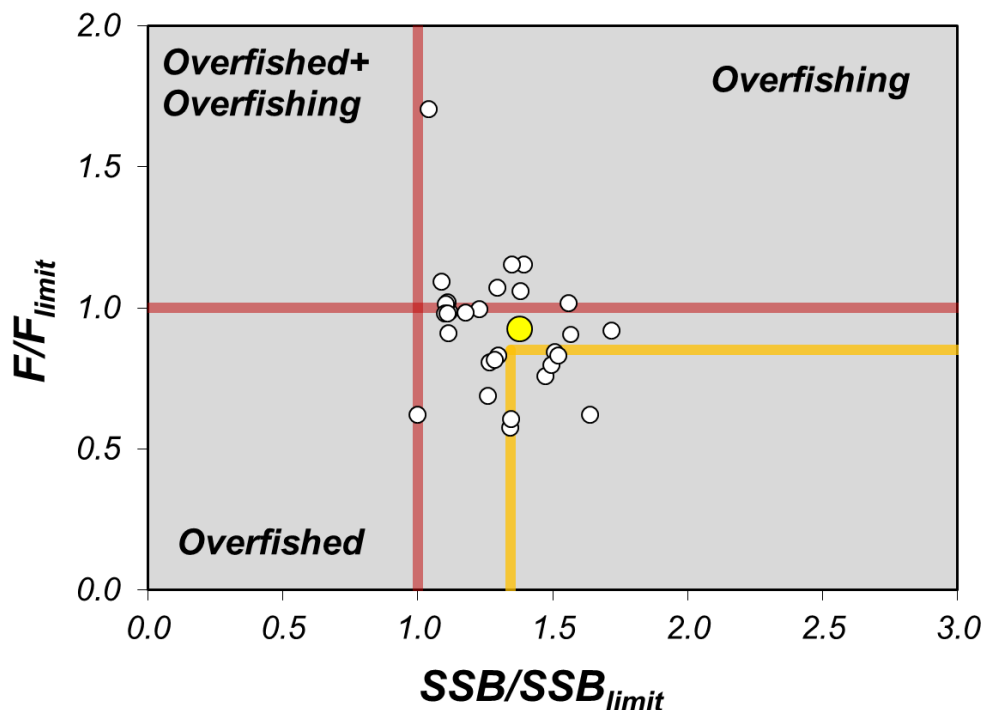
Jumps around year to year
Annual Measure
No recent trend in this information

Commissioner Manuel asked if this data is statewide data and Mr. Blanchet responded yes, it is data collected statewide. He followed by stating that the LA Creel Program does a Basin by Basin data collection rather than statewide. This program started this year



Reference Points

Red Line = Vertical
Yellow Point = Current Position
We are not overfishing
We are not over target
The Yellow Line is our target



Randy Pausina stated that the take home message from these slides is – Every month, statewide data is collected. This is real time data
We look back in time to validate that we heading in the right direction

Commissioner Manuel asked at what point you would recommend an increase in catch
Mr. Pausina stated that all conservation actions were taken over by the Legislature in 1997 and the finfish monitoring program began 1995 so the department never got into position to adjust the management tools which is why we have conservation standards. He further stated that this is a social issue not a biological issue – Biologically we are exactly where we should be
Commissioner Manuel then asked – In future years when would we change the limit and Mr Pausina again stated that biologically we are in a good place and the Commission would have decide

Commissioner Taylor asked if there are as many fish in 2013 as in previous years
Mr. Pausina stated yes, and they reevaluate every three to five years.

Commissioner Graham asked if this survey was through the year 2013 and Mr. Pausina stated that yes it is and the Real Time data is through 2014 but not used in this data group.

Commissioner Swindell asked if we wanted to be on the right hand side of the yellow line. Mr. Blanchet said yes, would rather be on the yellow line which means more fish could be harvested. Mr. Swindell then asked – it's not a necessity to reduce the harvest? Mr. Blanchet stated that the recruits are there and that's how fishing regulations come about. He then stated that from a biological standpoint, we are in good shape and the stock currently reproduces itself.

Commissioner Yakupzack asked what could be a new mechanism - with the example of loss of land/land loss. Mr. Blanchett stated a decline in recruitment, spawning stock biomass. Recruitment moving southward equals less fish in the water; Fewer fish in harvest but fraction of the stock could remain the same. Mr. Pausina then stated that this is not a management issue, it is a habitat issue. The marsh needs to be saved because management tools would not be needed.

Commissioner Taylor then asked if there was concern about marsh loss and Randy Pausina stated that the assessment is clouded because its statewide data – we manage fisheries not coastal rehabilitation

Mr. Blanchet stated it will take four (4) years to get basin level harvest data needed for assessment – the first two (2) years, there is no context of the data stream. Commissioner Yakupzack asked - in three years? Mr. Blanchet stated in ½ year of LA Creel program

Vice Chairman Manuel announced the next item, **To Set the February 2015 Meeting Date**

A discussion took place and the meeting is set for February 5, 2015. A motion for approval was made by Commissioner Graham and seconded by Commissioner Yakupzack. Vice Chairman Yakupzack called for a vote and the motion passed with no opposition.

Vice Chairman Manuel announced the next item, **To Hear Public Comments**,
There were none heard

There being no further business, Vice Chairman Manuel **Adjourned** the meeting

Pat Manuel, Vice Chairman